

Hello. My name is Lisa Rhyndress. I support Bill #4410.

My children along with many other students who struggle with advanced math will benefit from this bill. The Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) requirements are unfair because they discriminate against students who are not able to perform complex, high-level math.

Because the current standards are set so high, most parents simply do not have the skills to help their kids with homework. High school math teachers are recommending that parents hire high achieving math students to tutor our kids because they understand complex math methods. There are not enough tutors at the high school level to help all students who struggle with math. Tutors are usually only available two days a week; so struggling kids only receive help with 2 out of 5 Math assignments. Most parents can't afford to hire tutors for their kids, especially in these economic times. I've paid for Michigan State University (MSU) students to tutor my son in math, but it turned out to be a waste of time and money. Because even though his answers were correct, the problem solving methods were incorrect. My son couldn't even get half credit on his math assignments.

I'm here to tell you, not all parents feel confident that their kids will meet the MMC requirements especially when high school math teachers are saying that many students are not going to meet the math requirements.

I recognize the need to demonstrate strong basic mathematical skills for graduation; however keeping students from graduating because they do not possess the ability to perform complex; advanced mathematical formulas is wrong. The MMC requirements are generating panic among many kids and parents.

Please approve Bill #4410 for the good of all students. Thank you for listening.